REMARKS

Though this Reply is being filed in response to a Final rejection, no new matter has been included, and the amendments create no new issues requiring further search, and thus entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. Claim 37 has been cancelled. Claims 38, 40 and 42 have been amended. Claims 26-36 and 38-42 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 26-36.

Next, Applicant acknowledges the §103(a) issues with claims 37-39 and 42, and has cancelled claim 37 and amended claims 38, 40 and 42, to appropriately overcome the obviousness rejections. No new matter has been added, these amendments being made for clarification purposes only. An indication to this effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the present amendments and the above Remarks, independent claims 26 and 40, as well as their corresponding dependent claims 27-36, 38, 39, 41 and 42, are believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. As such, an indication to that effect as well as a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions that could expedite the resolution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below number.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Reply. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any fee to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully aubmitted,

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Dated: July 31, 2006

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